Soviet of Workers and Soldiers—the two bodies destined to play the leading roles in the developing drama.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

As early as 1916, when there were rumors of an imminent palace revolution, some journalists used to speculate on what kind of government setup the public would accept. Several lists of hypothetical cabinets, under Nicholas' successor, circulated in political circles. Most of them included the names of a few moderate and liberal members of the Duma and a few old-school bureaucrats who had not been directly associated with Rasputin and were therefore considered liberals.

In the hectic days of the revolution, the Temporary Duma Committee fell back on one such list. In view of the changed situation, the old bureaucrats were dropped and Cabinet posts were offered to Chkheidze and Kerensky. Chkheidze rejected the offer in order to remain at the head of the Soviet; Kerensky accepted despite his party's objections.

The list of members of the Cabinet had been drawn up before the Soviet informed the Temporary Duma Committee that it wished to discuss the conditions under which it would support the new government. At the joint session on the evening of March 14, the Soviet delegates, headed by Chkheidze, presented a platform of eight points and the Duma Committee accepted it with only minor verbal changes. Thus was the program of the Provisional Government established: 1. Full amnesty for all political, religious, and military prisoners; 2. Freedom of speech and the press, freedom to unionize and to strike, with extension of political rights to men in the armed forces; 3. Abolition of all class, religious, and national discriminations; 4. Immediate preparation for democratic elections to the Constituent Assembly; 5. Creation of a people's militia to replace the police; 6. Democratic elections of local governments; 7. A pledge not to disarm or remove from Petrograd troops that had participated in the revolution; 8. All rights enjoyed by other citizens to be accorded to soldiers not on active duty.

Two features were striking in the negotiations between the Duma Committee and the Petrograd Soviet. First, the new government had no program of its own but merely underwrote the platform of the Soviet; second, the Soviet's platform was a makeshift job, concocted in a hurry. It omitted any reference to such fundamental problems as war and peace, industrial relations and labor conditions, the dis-